



**YWCA Greenwich
Testimony on HB 6618
An Act Concerning Medical Assistance for Certain Persons Receiving Abortion Care and
Related Services in Connecticut
Human Services Committee
February 28, 2023**

Senators Lesser and Gaston, Representatives Gilchrest and Dathan, Ranking Members Seminara and Case, and members of the Human Services Committee:

Thank you for your consideration of **HB 6618, an act concerning medical assistance for certain persons receiving abortion care and related services** in Connecticut. This bill is important to YWCA Greenwich's mission to eliminate racism, empower women, and promote peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all. YWCA Greenwich strongly supports reproductive freedom and the rights of women, transgender, gender nonconforming individuals, and all people who experience pregnancy.

After the overturn of *Roe v. Wade*, at least 18 states have enacted laws restricting access to abortion care or banning it entirely. This has resulted not only in a withdrawal of reproductive choice and freedom, but it often also forces people to travel out-of-state to receive abortion care. It is important to recognize that these reproductive decisions produce life-long consequences for educational attainment, economic security, and health.

HB 6618 helps Connecticut combat some of these reproductive restrictions in other states by providing funding and medical assistance for those who are in financial need and traveling to Connecticut for abortion care. This legislation can have profound positive effects on all who seek abortion care, but especially those who have historically faced barriers to healthcare, such as low-income People of Color, LGBTQ+ and gender-nonconforming individuals, and immigrants.

Freedom of choice and access are hallmarks of equitable reproductive healthcare. This bill provides an opportunity for Connecticut to better assist those seeking abortion and related medical services who reside in a state where these qualities are absent.

We thank the committee for the opportunity to provide written testimony. **YWCA Greenwich strongly supports HB 6618, and we urge you to pass it.**

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

YWCA GREENWICH

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